

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Introduction**

With the cancellation without prejudice of claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 17 to 19, claims 2, 3, 6 and 8 to 16 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### **II. Allowed Claims 12 and 13**

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 12 and 13 are allowed. Claims 2, 6, 8 to 11, 14 and 16 have been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 12, and claims 3 and 15 now ultimately depend from claim 12. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 6, 8 to 11 and 14 to 16 are in condition for immediate allowance.

### **III. Rejections of Claims 1 to 11 and 14 to 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Regarding the rejection of claims 1 to 11 and 14 to 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), while this rejection is not necessarily agreed with, to facilitate matters, claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 17 to 19 have been canceled herein without prejudice, claims 2, 6, 8 to 11, 14 and 16 have been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 12, which was indicated to be allowed, and claims 3 and 15 now ultimately depend from claim 12. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the present rejections are moot.

Regarding the contention that “Applicant has not traversed Examiner’s [sic] assertion of Official Notice,” the Examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to, for example, page 8 of the Amendment filed on September 12, 2007.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

#### IV. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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